

The Lightning Wolf Chronicles Novel

Chapter 5

Read The Lightning Wolf Chronicles Novel Chapter 5 -

Souls Bound By Promise – Timothy Nelson

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Chapter 161: I Won't Let You Down

74%

Evelyn's POV

Morning light crept through the gaps in the heavy curtains as I slowly opened my eyes. We'd stayed up way too late last night, and everyone was still dead

to the world.

I sat up carefully, taking in the scene. The three of us girls had somehow ended crammed onto Alistair's huge bed – Freya and I were leaning against the

headboard on one side, while Aria was sandwiched between Rowan and Alistair. Even in sleep, those two guys never stopped being protective.

Freya looked more peaceful than I'd seen her in weeks. Sure, she still had the occasional tremor, but no screaming nightmares. Progress.

Mark and Cyrus had crashed in the armchairs by the fireplace. Even here in the castle, they stayed alert. Looking at how uncomfortable they looked, twisted up in those chairs, I felt a pang of guilt and gratitude rolled into one.

The quiet reminded me of mornings back in Polaris City. Elliot, the triplets, all my friends. Almost a year since I'd left home – I wondered how they were all

doing. They'd be coming to the training center this summer. I'd have to find a way to see them.

I slipped out of bed as quietly as possible, heading for the bathroom to wash off what was left of last night's makeup.

The second I touched the bathroom door handle, I heard movement behind me. Mark and Cyrus, who'd looked completely out cold, now had their eyes open

and locked on me.

"Do you guys ever actually sleep?" I whispered. "I'm just washing my face."

"Sorry, occupational hazard," Mark rubbed his eyes. "New places make us jumpy."

"Fair enough. I'll be quick."

In the bathroom mirror, I looked like I'd been through a blender. Smudged makeup, hair going in six different directions, but somehow I felt good. The warm water on my face was exactly what I needed.

When I came out, Freya was sitting on the edge of the bed, rubbing her eyes like sleepy kid.

'Morning," I said softly. "Sleep okay?"

'Best I've had in forever." She gave me this grateful smile that made my chest tigt.

"Having you guys here... it helps."

A knock interrupted us. Sebastian appeared with a silver tray, looking like he'd been up for hours already.

"Good morning, everyone. Alpha King Nathan and Luna Queen Selena want to se you all in the conference room in thirty minutes," he said in that respectful way of his. 'Breakfast is ready, and I've put fresh clothes in Miss Evely's room."

"Thanks, Sebastian, Alistair mumbled from the bed, his hair sticking up everywle. "We'll get moving."

Sebastian bowed and left. Time to wake everyone else.

'Another meeting?' Aria groaned, still half-asleep. I wanted to sleep until noon

'Duty calls, Rowan said, patting her shoulder. Alpha Nathan wouldn't call us in nless it was important."

We girls headed to the next room to change while the boys got ready in Alistairs oom. Sebastian had laid out fresh Sentinel uniforms for each of us - man thought of everything.

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Once we were all dressed and met back in the hallway, we looked like Alistair's personal security detail. He was the only one still in formal royal clothes

while the rest of us wore matching Sentinel gear.

"Very professional," Alistair nodded approvingly. "Let's go. Don't want to keep my father waiting."

The conference room felt familiar now – same place where I'd called out Alpha Samuel months ago. Alpha King Nathan was already there, looking way too

energetic for this early in the morning. That expression usually meant he had big plans brewing.

"My elite squad!" he greeted us warmly. "Sit down, we've got a lot to cover."

All seven of us lined up on one side of the round table, facing Alpha Nathan and Luna Selena. It felt like we were about to get grilled, but their expressions

stayed friendly.

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'First things first excellent work last night, Alpha Nathan began. "The intel you gathered is exactly what we needed to understand what we're dealing

with."

He turned to Freya. "Especially you, Freya. Your tech skills are impressive. You accomplished more in one night than my team has managed in months."

Freya ducked her head, looking embarrassed. "Just doing my job, Alpha Nathan."

"Which brings me to assignments," he continued. "Freya, you're joining our intelligence analysis department with Cyrus. Your breakthrough last night was

remarkable."

‘Cyrus, you’ll work with our weapons specialists. These rogue packs are getting their hands on serious hardware, and we need to know how. Also, look into their sources for poisons and control drugs.’

Cyrus nodded seriously. ‘Understood, Alpha Nathan.’

‘Aria and Evelyn, you’ll rotate as Alistair’s personal guards. Recent events have made certain people more... aggressive. I don’t want Alistair operating alone anymore.’

‘Rowan, you’ll stay as Alistair’s primary security chief. This position is critical, and I trust you completely.’

‘You won’t be disappointed, Alpha Nathan, Rowan replied.

‘Additionally, Freya needs to undergo the Sentinel marking ceremony, Alpha Nathan said. “That way you can maintain mind links with the team and coordinate better.”

‘I’d be honored, Alpha Nathan. Freya’s eyes lit up with excitement.

“As for Evelyn,” his expression grew more serious, “given your unique background and experiences, sending you back to regular classes would be a waste. You’ll stay at the castle. I’ll personally oversee your education.”

I felt surprised but nodded. ‘Whatever you think is best, Alpha Nathan.’

“Good. Now I need to tell you something important.” He paused, like he was choosing his words carefully. ‘About Evelyn’s identity there are things you need to know.

Everyone turned to stare at me. My stomach dropped.

Alpha Nathan took a deep breath. “Evelyn is my niece. Alistair’s cousin. She has ayal blood.”

The room went dead silent. I could see the shock on my friends’ faces – they clearly hadn’t seen this coming.

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“What?” Aria was the first to find her voice. What did you just say?

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You heard me correctly. Alpha Nathan said calmly. “Evelyn is my late cousin’s daughter. Royal blood runs in her veins. This is why the rogue packs were so

desperate to capture her.

“Hold on, Cyrus shot to his feet, anger radiating off him. “You’re telling us you knew she was royalty before you sent her on that mission?”

“That’s correct. Alpha Nathan’s tone stayed level, but his aura started pressing down on us. “Is there a problem?”

“Hell yes, there’s a problem!” Aria jumped up too, completely ignoring the Alpha pressure. “Why would you send a royal family member into that kind of

danger? You knew she could get captured!”

“Did you set her up on purpose?” Mark’s voice was almost a growl.

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Chapter 162: Bringing Down the Rogue Wolf King

Evelyn’s POV

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I held up my hand before my friends could explode. I already knew about the mission setup. Don’t get worked up – let Alpha King Nathan finish.”

Alpha King Nathan nodded. ‘Now we can confirm the Rogue Wolf King knows Evelyn’s bloodline. She’s in greater danger.’

Mark and Cyrus looked ready to argue, but Nathan raised his hand. “I’m not hiding her away like some fragile ornament. She’s royal blood, just like Alistair. That makes her a target people will try to capture her to get to us.”

He took a sip of water. “I’ll handle her psychological training while you work on physical conditioning. Over the next few weeks, you’ll get intensive training in your specialties and learn to coordinate with other Sentinels. As we gather intel on the Rogue Wolf King and missing girls, I’ll send you out with our best

warriors.”

“What we know – all kidnapped girls are high-ranking. They’re suffering the same abuse you two went through. His eyes flicked to Freya and me. “We’ve found several bodies recently. Their operation’s falling apart – they’re getting desperate.”

“Why be so damn cruel?” Rowan muttered.

Alpha King Nathan’s expression hardened. “Our family history is soaked in blood and hatred. The women in our family are born with special abilities. You’ve noticed Evelyn’s combat skills are way beyond normal warriors. Her abilities are... unusual.”

‘What do you mean unusual?’ My stomach twisted.

“Usually each woman has one talent. Your mother could manipulate emotions – you have that too. But you’re a Beta’s daughter, so Alpha auras should affect you. They don’t. You’re completely immune.”

He gave me a knowing look. “Then there are your scars. Considering everything you’ve been through, you heal abnormally fast. Silver powder and massive amounts of wolfsbane couldn’t kill you.”

I stared at my hands, feeling everyone’s eyes on me.

I took a deep breath. “They chained me up by my wrists. Whipped my back until each strike tore through flesh. Then they hung me upside down, poured silver powder on the bleeding wounds, and dumped me in the forest to die. That when my wolf came early.”

Dead silence. Luna Queen Selena was quietly wiping tears.

‘But that’s over now. So ‘unusual’ means I have multiple abilities?’

He nodded. ‘No family records show any woman with multiple abilities at once. I think Brandon’s been capturing females to steal their powers, but he doesn’t have detailed family trees. They’ve been hunting for your grandmother and mother.’

“If you knew she was the main target, Alpha King Nathan, why the hell did you still let her take that risk? Mark’s voice was pure anger.

Alpha King Nathan’s aura slammed down on us. “We only got solid proof last night. Without Evelyn’s mission intel, we’d never have uncovered the truth. Some sacrifices are necessary to end this completely. Watch your tone.”

“Yes, Alpha King Nathan. Mark dropped his head.

“Now you understand – my cousin, the Rogue Wolf King, will pay for his crimes. He’ll face formal trial before the Council of Elders and all Alpha Kings.”

‘Decide his fate?’ I shot to my feet. ‘Scumbags like him deserve to die! How many innocent people are dead because of his sick ambition? He’d kill you

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without blinking! Why waste time on some trial?

“I rarely see you hate someone this much.” He raised an eyebrow.

“With respect, Alpha King Nathan – you haven’t personally felt Brandon’s torture. His crimes are worth the death penalty, and even that’s too easy.

I clenched my fists. “If the Rogue Wolf King is as sick as Brandon, or worse, they all deserve to die.”

I closed my eyes, forcing my breathing to slow. Losing control would get me kicked off missions.

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Would you personally carry out that death sentence? Could you watch someone get tortured, or do it yourself? I know that’s not who you are. And what about their kids should we kill them for their bloodline? Kill him, and if his children escape with hatred, what then? Another revenge cycle?

“That’s why we need trials. Listen to emotions, but solve problems with logic. The Moon Goddess is the final judge. If you want them to pay, you need to

survive long enough to bring them back.”

I hated that his logic was rock solid. I really couldn’t do to Brandon what he did to me. But thinking criminals like the Rogue Wolf King might escape

punishment was hard to swallow.

“However, you separated Brandon from the Rogue Wolf King, but all reports say they’re the same person. Why do you think they’re not?”

“Brandon’s only obsession was making babies, almost completely fixated. If his real goal was stealing the throne, he wouldn’t put all his energy into that. He hasn’t even gotten the throne yet. Plus he admitted he’s not calling the shots, just a front man.”

“If the real Rogue Wolf King is hiding as a high-ranking lieutenant, he’d be way more dangerous. We don’t know how many puppet leaders hes planted. If I were him, I’d set up multiple protective layers to wear down my enemies.”

“Very smart.” He smiled with pride. “I know you want justice, but don’t sacrifice the world for revenge. You all have tasks – the faster you organize intel, the faster we can break through his protective barriers. You can move around the castle freely until lunch. There’s one final task today, then we officially start

operations.”

When the meeting ended, everyone was unusually quiet. Too much information.

I walked ahead, not wanting to explain my past with Brandon. I refused to wallow in an unchangeable past.

The old Evelyn was gone. The current me had seen too much darkness to fear stupid bullying.

The priority now was bringing down the Rogue Wolf King.

When I snapped back to reality, I was standing at a door. The morning’s conversion left me drained 1 desperately needed somewhere quiet to process everything. Just as I pushed the door open, someone suddenly wrapped me in a hug from behind.

That familiar scent surrounded me, warm as a blanket from the dryer.

‘I want to understand what happened, but I won’t force you to talk. When you re ready, just remember you don’t have to carry this alone, okay?’ Alistair’s

voice came from above my head.

I nodded, and he let go. The others followed us into the room

‘So you two are cousins? Should I be calling you Princess Evelyn now? Mark joke, trying to lighten the mood.

His words actually made me laugh.

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‘Seriously though. Our jobs might be different, but we’re all after the same thing know you don’t want to go into detail about your captivity, but... are there any details that could help us find these bastards faster? Like their weak spots or behavior patterns?’ Mark got serious.

“Evelyn herself is their biggest weakness, Freya said quietly.

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Chapter 163: Won’t Ask These Questions Anymore

Evelyn’s POV

“What do you mean?’ I turned to face Freya.

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You're their biggest weakness, especially now that they know you have royal blood. She leaned back against the couch. That so-called Rogue Wolf King-of whoever's really pulling the strings – wants to steal your abilities. Brandon's obsessed with getting an heir, sons who could carry on his bloodline."

"But here's the weird part – he was always careful with you. Never as direct as he was with other girls." Freya's voice dropped. "You threw off their whole plan, even made Brandon change how he operates. I don't know exactly how those two are connected, but you're right about Brandon not being the real boss. If they both want something from you, you'll end up causing problems between them."

"So what happens now?" Cyrus asked. "Does he keep grabbing other women, or does he come straight for Evelyn? Both?"

"Probably both. He made it clear he was with multiple girls, trying to get them pregnant. But his whole attitude toward Evelyn was different." Freya cleared

her throat.

Alistair shot up so fast I barely saw him move. "You said he didn't touch you! Diana confirmed there were no signs of... that!" His voice was almost a roar.

"She's right. I didn't sleep with him, if that's what you're asking. He never got the chance. I deliberately spoke loud enough for everyone to hear – I wasn't going through this conversation again.?"

"I won't be his only target, especially if he's really after Alpha King Nathan's throne. Alistair, Rowan – you and your future mate will all be targets. We need to watch for rogue pack threats while looking for clues about their female allies. Once Alistair finds his mate, you'll have full power, which helps the kingdom but also puts you at bigger risk." I met Alistair's eyes directly.

"Think we're just gonna skip over the 'didn't sleep with him' part? What exactly did he do to you, Evelyn?" Rowan's time with Alistair was making him more

direct.

"Enough to give me nightmares." I glanced at Freya – her nightmares always ended with screaming and cold sweats. I shouldn't complain about anything when what I went through was nothing compared to her hell.

She caught my look, blinked, then stared at the ceiling. "When you're locked in a dark dungeon with someone else, your wrists and ankles chained to damp stone walls, constantly forced to drink wolf-suppressing poison, can't even mind nk..." Her voice started shaking,

“When you’ve been through all that, you understand the bond between us. We don’t want to talk about it or relive it. Please don’t ask anymore.”

The room went dead silent.

“We won’t ask these questions anymore.’ Cyrus walked over and helped Freya sta. The rest of us got up too.

“Alright, let’s talk about something lighter. Alistair started buttoning his shirt. Ready for the next challenge? It’s lunch time. By the way, I already told Aurora and her father that because of her behavior last night, she’s banned from day’s activities.”

“Holy shit! You actually listened to us? Aria looked shocked.

“Your analysis was spot on. Now’s the perfect time to set boundaries. If she screw up again, we can say we already tried being nice, then formally ban her from these events. Alistairs smile got wider.

“I love hearing ‘you were right it’s like music to my ears. Aria laughed, linking rms with him. “Since that’s settled, let’s wear our training clothes to lunch. Show these people that training matters more than boring social crap.”

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Chapter 163: Won’t Ask These Questions Anymore

“Dad will crack up, and Mom will pretend nothing happened. Want to bet which der brings this up first? Alistair grinned back.

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Lunch went exactly like we predicted. Some old elder jumped up to criticize our clothes, claiming these gatherings should welcome more participants and

show proper dignity.

His long-winded speech got cut off by Aria: “What a fantastic idea! We should totally invite regular pack members to these gatherings! They understand the territory’s real situation and what the pack actually needs way better than anyone She beamed at the elder while winking at me.

“These important meetings should only include members with status and merit... the elder started arguing.

‘But that’s exactly the problem! You spend all day in meetings handling ‘important matters’ with no time to get out into the pack and understand what people really need. Inviting regular members would let you hear authentic voices understand their concerns and problems. Aria cut him off again. ‘We could even do field visits to different pack areas, work alongside the hardworking people. That’s the only way to truly understand what they need.’

“Work? You mean... doing physical labor outside with those regular people?” A young woman gasped, then yelped in pain – obviously her parents pinched her hard. At least they heard the trap in Aria’s words.

I think this is an excellent idea, Aria. We should work together to make this happen. Luna Queen Selena said approvingly. The young woman’s face went sour like she’d bitten into a lemon, while her father and the questioning elder wisely shut their mouths.

After that, conversations in the hall were boring but peaceful. Before leaving, we usually said goodbye to Alpha King Nathan and Luna Queen Selena in front of everyone, acting as natural as friends normally would.

“Aria, could you stay? Before we send you back to the training center, I’d like to discuss some things with you privately.” Alpha King Nathan suddenly spoke

*of course,

Alpha King Nathan. See you guys later.” She hugged each of us goodbye, then sat back down while we left together.

The training that followed was brutal, but we all improved every day. Maybe because Alpha King Nathan’s assignments were urgent, or because we were in such bad shape, but I felt like my fitness was at rock bottom and the trainers were especially hard on us.

After several weeks, we finally adapted to the crazy schedule. Every day started with high-intensity morning training before dawn. After breakfast with the whole warrior camp, we’d run several miles, then head to different training spots!

Cyrus and Freya got assigned to the tech group, learning advanced network techniques to develop tracking methods while trying to research and copy the tracking tech Brandon had implanted in us, hoping to make them easier to implant but harder to detect.

Mark and Sophia followed veteran Sentinels learning advanced tracking techniques. They worked like crazy during training, never slacking even when we weren’t around. Every sparring session with them pushed me hard.

Nadia joined our team too, specializing in herbal and poison formulas. She showed serious talent in this area, getting more excited during experiments than her mother. She was

probably sick of regular academics too, which was good since it meant we could see her more often.

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Chapter 164: The Storm Is Coming

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Evelyn's POV

Alistair was gradually taking over more duties from Alpha King Nathan, getting ready to inherit the Alpha King position someday. Right now, he mainly handled supply procurement from the human world and outside the kingdom. Whenever we had free time, we'd help out.

The funniest part? Watching those girls who 'coincidentally' showed up at the castle office hoping to run into Alistair. Their faces when they discovered us

working alongside him were priceless.

Luna Queen Selena personally taught us how to handle the constant stream of visitors. Some made reasonable requests, others were selfish jerks, and some were flat-out rude. But she always kept her cool.

As for me, Alpha King Nathan arranged for me to study royal history and etiquette with him, especially the missing parts about my mother and grandmother. Apparently, as a royal family member, I needed to learn various protocols. Oh, and I was fifth in line for the throne.

That nearly made me burst out laughing. Alistair was alive and kicking, doing great at his job. I couldn't imagine what would happen if this burden ever fell on me. I'd probably lose my mind completely.

On top of regular training, Alpha King Nathan brought in a witch from the witch council to teach me magic. He said my grandmother had talent in this area and wanted to see if I'd inherited it.

The witch's name was Juniper. She had striking deep purple hair and emerald green eyes. She wore simple dark robes covered in intricate runic patterns I couldn't make heads or tails of. She was graceful, composed, radiating this mysterious aura that made it impossible to guess her age.

She was several inches taller than me with this powerful presence. Always seemed calm, but I could sense the energy simmering beneath that peaceful

exterior.

Today we sat in the garden outside the castle. Morning sunlight filtered through the leaves, the air thick with floral scents.

"Straighten your back, put your palms flat on the ground, Juniper instructed in her trademark calm voice. "Now tell me what you feel.

"The soil's soft, mixed with fine sand. Warm from the sun." I pressed my palms deeper into the earth, adjusting my breathing.

Concentrating was the hardest part for me. After spending so much time alone, I never thought 'sitting quietly and emptying my mind' would be such a problem. But I hated this state of doing nothing, thinking nothing. It made me restless.

I took another deep breath, feeling the cool smoothness of grass blades under my fingertips. I tried sensing the world beneath the surface, reaching for

invisible forces.

"There are vibrations! Why are there vibrations?" I snapped my eyes open.

'Close your eyes. Use your hands to listen to the earth's voice,' Juniper said patiently.

We tried over and over. Each attempt left me more frustrated. In previous session I couldn't catch any special feelings, once thinking I simply hadn't inherited magical talent. But this vibration thing was different the first time I sensed something beyond basic touch.

Like a heartbeat or pulse, but with vibrations. What is that? I held my breath, trying to follow the mysterious rhythm.

But just when I thought I was getting it, like a rubber band snapping, all sensations vanished. I opened my eyes and jumped up like something had bitten

“What the hell was that?!”*

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“You felt the deep connection with nature. Plants communicate through vast root networks. Those vibrations might be warning signals, preparing for something about to happen,” Juniper explained calmly.

‘Preparing for what? Thunder crashed across the sky the moment I finished speaking.

I looked up, confused. How long had we been sitting here? Just moments ago wah sunlight was on my face when had the sky gotten so dark?

“The storm is coming,” she said calmly. Something told me she wasn’t just talking about the weather.

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We rushed toward the castle, trying to find shelter before the rain hit. But just as we burst through the patio doors, torrential rain beat us inside, soaking us

completely.

A castle staff member was already waiting with clean towels, obviously expecting us to return drenched.

“Can we try again? How about training indoors?” I said eagerly while toweling of my soaked hair. “I don’t want to lose that feeling I just caught. Even if I don’t have magical talent, being able to sense good and bad magical properties could be useful. Maybe it could help us find those imprisoned witches...”

“Don’t rush, child. Juniper gently pressed my shoulder. “Alpha King Nathan mentioned you get overexcited when learning new things seems he was right. Outdoor training helps you master elemental forces faster, but if you insist on continuing, I can take you to the witch council’s dedicated learning space.”

‘Let’s go to the study first and start with magical theory basics. Only then can you truly understand the source and meaning of that feeling.’”

We headed to Alpha King Nathan’s private study – the same place where I usually caught up on royal history, particularly the missing parts about my mother

and grandmother.

*Please sit. Let's start with basic magical concepts. First, you must understand that magic itself has no distinction between good and evil. She poured tea from a teapot I swear hadn't been there before – probably conjured it with magic

“This is the most important point – remember it. The morality of magic depends entirely on the user's intentions and methods.”

She handed me a cup of tea with a faint herbal scent. Afternoon sunlight streamed through the study's tall windows, creating dancing patterns on her purple

hair.

She waved her hand toward a thick ancient book on the desk. It immediately flew toward us like it was alive, landing steadily in her hands.

I originally planned crash course teaching, but you seem more like the type who enjoys deep study.” She winked.

She opened the ancient book. Each page was covered with gorgeous handwritten text, margins filled with dense notes. Different colored inks recorded how magic evolved with the world's changes.

Magic is the world's essence, the fundamental force maintaining all things. Witches are merely conduits guiding this force, using it to shape reality, heal wounds, and guard inner peace. She explained basic concepts, turning pages to show beautiful illustrations of the four elements.

‘Earth, water, wind, fire. Mastering how they interact is key to unlocking elemental magic. Based on your bloodline, earth elemental power flows in your veins you should connect with it most easily.’

This is actually interesting, I thought about the wonderful feeling from the garden

“But remember, true mastery lies in finding balance between all elements. Halar is the key to unleashing magic's full potential. She closed the thick book, pushing it toward me.

“Thank you for doing all this for me. My gaze couldn't leave the book some mysterious force attracted me like a magnet.

This book has special protective spells only you can understand its contents. I hope it stays in the castle for safekeeping. Though this is just an

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introductory book, it contains precious heritage from our witch council and must be properly protected.”

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Chapter 165: Nobody Hurts My Mate!

Chapter 167: Nobody Hurts My Mate!

Evelyn's POV

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“I’ll take good care of it,” I said, accepting the book and feeling its subtle warmth against my fingers. “Thanks for the lessons.”

Juniper gathered her materials with practiced efficiency. “That’s all for today. You might want to check what’s happening in the hallway, though.” A slight

smile played on her lips.

“The hallway? What’s going on?”

“Listen carefully and you’ll find out.”

I tucked the magic book into my backpack and had barely reached the door when I heard hushed arguing. Peering around the corner, I couldn't help but

sigh.

Down the corridor, Aurora had Alistair cornered against the wall. She wore a blindingly bright blue dress that looked completely out of place in the castle.

Alistair maintained his perfect diplomatic face the one that revealed absolutely nothing of the irritation I knew he must be feeling.

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"Your Highness, you've been avoiding me," Aurora's voice dripped with artificial sweetness. "No one gets you like I do. My father says Alpha King Nathan just

found some nobody to keep you company. Once the elders pick someone suitable, you'll see we're meant to be together."

Heat surged through me. These stupid rumors never died, and now they were dragging the elders into it?

I made my footsteps deliberately loud as I approached. Aurora's spine went rigid.

"Aurora, what a surprise," I said with my best fake smile, sliding between them. "Glad to see you're allowed at events again."

Alistair's mouth twitched with suppressed laughter.

You really need to learn how to turn these obsessed girls down. They totally take advantage of your politeness, I told him through our mind link.

Help me,

I'm dying here. She's bathed in perfume, he replied.

"We're about to meet with Alpha King Nathan and Luna Queen Selena about border security, I explained with feigned regret. "Royal duties come first, you

understand."

Aurora narrowed her eyes. "I think the Prince can speak for himself without some Sentinel making decisions for him."

"I'm not just a Sentinel," I locked eyes with her. "You know that,"

‘So that’s it. Who do you think you are? You little

“Miss Aurora!” Aria’s sharp voice cut through the tension as she approached from the other end of the hallway. “The royal wing is restricted. Luna Queen Selena is waiting for us. I suggest you head back to the visitor area before you to your invitation privileges altogether.”

Aurora opened and closed her mouth, then huffed and stalked away with exaggerated dignity.

The three of us hurried to Luna Queen Selena’s office, not speaking until we were safely inside. Only then did we collectively exhale.

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Chapter 165: Nobody Hurts My Mate!

“That was seriously I began, then noticed Alpha King Nathan was present too snapped my mouth shut.

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“I wasn’t trying to eavesdrop, but that conversation was hard to miss,” Luna Queen Selena said, setting down her teacup. ‘Evelyn, what exactly did that

young lady say?’”

I stared at my boots, unsure how to respond.

‘Mother, Aurora crossed a line,” Alistair straightened. “She entered the royal wing without permission and claimed Father is forcing me to hang out with

‘some nobody. She implied the elders get to decide who my mate will be.’”

Luna Queen Selena’s expression cooled instantly. “I’ve let these girls’ behavior slide for too long. Alistair, we all know finding your mate is the Moon

Goddess’s will. No one has the right to interfere.”

As they continued, I noticed Aria rubbing at her wrist where her Sentinel mark was.

You okay? I asked through our link.

Fine. Mark's just itchy lately.

How long has that been happening?

About two weeks? Started as just irritation, but it's getting worse.

"Aria, come with me," Luna Queen Selena suddenly turned to us. "I need to discuss something with you."

After they left, the office fell silent for a moment.

"When Alistair officially takes the throne," Alpha King Nathan finally said, staring out the window, "we'll change many things. Including those so-called

'traditions' and certain elders' privileges."

*Father, I want Evelyn on my future advisory council,' Alistair said. "I need people who are completely loyal and offer different perspectives."

Alpha King Nathan nodded. 'Smart choice. But now, we have more urgent matter

In the following weeks, Aurora vanished from most events, only appearing at formal functions where she kept her distance. Aria's condition, however,

worried me. Her mark issue persisted and seemed to be getting worse.

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Tonight, Aria and I were guarding the main elevator to the royal floor our last ght on duty. She'd been in pain all evening, constantly scratching her

mark. 'Evie, it's getting worse, Something's not right."

She suddenly collapsed, clutching her wrist with a low groan.

Diana! I called through the link. Arta's in trouble. We're at the main elevator. Getre now!

Three minutes. Keep her conscious, came the reply.

'Hang on, Diana's coming,' I said, supporting Aria as her body trembled. Deep breaths, look at me."

'It hurts... like somethings trying to break through my skin...

What happened next seemed to play in slow motion - Aria's body tensed, a scree tore from her throat, and an invisible wave of energy threw me against

the wall. My vision blurred as my back slammed into the hard surface.

2/3

10:01 Mon, Jan 12 GB

Chapter 165: Nobody Hurts My Mate!

As I struggled to stand, I heard a deafening wolf howl, followed by splintering wood.

Alistair stood there, eyes blazing with rage.

‘What did you do to her? His voice was low and threatening.

‘Nothing, I stayed still, knowing any sudden movement might set him off. She needs medical help.’

“Get away! Nobody hurts my mate!”

Mate? My mind raced – Aria was Alistair’s destined mate? That would explain the mark problems two powerful bonds fighting each other.

–

Alistair, please calm down,” I kept my voice steady. “She needs help. Where’s Rowan? She needs both of you.”

“Rowan...” his voice softened slightly.

“Yes, you’re both her mates, right? Rowan should be here too. Her Sentinel mark probably breaking because of your mate bond.”

Diana rushed around the corner, wisely stopping a few steps away. “Your Highness, please let me help. We need Rowan, right now.”

74%

Rowan! I called urgently. Main elevator. Alistair’s losing it. Aria is your mate, and she’s in bad shape. Hurry!

What? Aria? I just felt something powerful. On my way.

Alistair remained half-shifted, growling at anyone approaching Aria. Minutes late, the elevator opened, and Rowan rushed out, assessing everything in one

glance.

“My Alpha,” he said softly, approaching Alistair. “We found her.”

Alistair didn’t attack; instead, he relaxed as Rowan approached. “Our Luna.” Rowan knelt beside Aria, gently touching her forehead. “We’re finally complete.

Alistair knelt down too, and they embraced the unconscious Aria, radiating protective energy. Diana finally managed to begin her examination.

I leaned against the wall, watching with mixed shock and relief.

Evelyn, you okay? Diana asked through our link.

Just bruised. Take care of Aria. She needs you more right now.

The Lightning Wolf Chronicles Novel

Chapter 5

Read The Lightning Wolf Chronicles Novel Chapter 5 -

Souls Bound By Promise – Timothy Nelson

166

Chapter 166: I Know You’re Strong

74%

Evelyn’s POV

“Why isn’t she waking up? It’s been two days!” Alistair paced across the hospital pom, each step heavier than the last.

Diana sighed, maintaining her professional tone. “Please sit down, Your Highness Your anxiety will affect her through your new bond.”

“How am I supposed to stay calm?” Alistair stopped, pointing at Aria’s still form. She shouldn’t have gone through this. If I’d realized sooner

‘Realized what exactly?’ Diana cut in. “We’ve never documented conflicts between a Sentinel mark and mate bond before. This is completely new territory.”

I handed Alistair a steaming cup. “Here, drink this. Diana made it to help settle your nerves.”

He took the cup but just held it, staring at Aria’s unconscious form. Only the steady beep of monitors broke the silence.

‘You should be proud of her,’ I said quietly. “Her mark should’ve lasted until next summer before fading naturally. Your bond was strong enough to break through those protections, and she handled that pressure without even knowing what was happening.”

Alistair’s face softened. “Of course I’m proud. I just need to see her awake, hear her voice... know she’s really okay. She’s everything to us now.”

Rowan approached from across the room, calmer than Alistair but equally concerned. “Alpha King Nathan has suspended our duties until things stabilize.”

“Good,” Diana nodded. “You both need to stay close. A new mate bond is fragile, especially under these unusual circumstances.”

I watched Aria’s steady breathing. Her color had returned, but she remained lost somewhere between consciousness and sleep.

“What do you think is going through her head right now?” Alistair asked me suddenly. “You know her better than anyone.”

I thought for a moment. “She’s probably confused. Since I’ve known her, she never once pictured herself as Luna, let alone Luna Queen. She always joked it was the most stressful job in our world.”

“She said that?” Rowan raised an eyebrow.

“Yeah. Think about it – a Luna has to be both strong and gentle, support all her pha’s decisions while keeping her own identity, be the packs spiritual center and her mate’s sanctuary. Not many people who really understand that would want the position.”

Alistair nodded slowly. “That’s exactly why the Moon Goddess chooses our mates. Only those truly suited can handle it.

And Aria has everything needed to be an amazing Luna Queen, I added. “She just needs time to accept it.

Over the next few days, I took turns with Diana caring for Aria while giving Alistair and Rowan space to adjust. Alpha King Nathan and Luna Queen Selena visited often, with Luna Queen Selena personally guiding the men on supporting Aria through their bond.

On the fourth morning, I was half-asleep in the corner when I heard a faint groan

'Where am I? Feels like I've been swimming through fog forever...

I jerked upright. Alistair and Rowan were already at her bedside, their faces lit with relief.

'We're in the medical wing. You've been out for over three days, Alistair said softly.

1/3

10:01 Mon, Jan 12 ▲ G

74%

Chapter 166: I Know You're Strong

Aria blinked, disoriented. Last thing I remember was standing by the elevator when my wrist started killing me. Evie, did we drink something weird during

our shift? My head's pounding."

I couldn't help smiling. 'No, nothing like that. Take a deep breath and tell me what you smell."

She inhaled, then her eyes went wide as she looked at Alistair and Rowan. "Is that.. your scent? Why is it so strong? And why can I feel what you're feeling?' She finally noticed how close they were sitting. "Wait, what's happening

"Your Sentinel mark conflicted with the mate bond, Diana explained, checking Aa's vitals. "The mark eventually rejected and shed."

"What mate bond? Aria's voice sharpened as she looked between the two men. That's impossible. I can't be your mate. I can't be Luna Queen."

I noticed she directed everything at me, completely ignoring the guys. I cleared my throat. "I think you three need some privacy. I'll step out.

"Don't go! Aria called, but I just gave her an encouraging smile before slipping out.

In the weeks that followed, the three of them worked on adjusting to their new band, and I barely saw them. This gave me more time with Nadia. We mostly practiced magic in the castle garden or studied the ancient texts Juniper had left me in the room.

"I can hardly wait, Nadia said, closing her book with a snap. "They're arriving tomorrow! I've almost forgotten what Milo looks like."

She suddenly went quiet, and I caught that familiar look – the overly cautious expression people got when my captivity came up.

“Don’t look at me like that,” I said, meeting her eyes directly. “I won’t fall apart just because we mentioned the past. I’m not made of glass.”

‘Sorry,’ she sighed. “It’s just... I saw how you looked when they brought you back That image sticks with you.”

“That’s over now,” I squeezed her hand. “What I need is normal treatment, not special handling. You’re one of the few people who sees the real me. Don’t

change that.

“If you say so, her smile returned to its usual brightness. “So what’s your plan? What’ll you do when Elliot and the triplets get here?”

Nervous energy flickered through me. “Honestly? No idea. Since we split up last year, we’ve only had that birthday letter and those gifts they sent. Feels like

a lifetime ago.”

‘How much do they know? About what happened to you?’

“Not sure. Alpha Adam and Luna Isabella definitely know something, but probabl not all the details. Otherwise, Elliot would’ve stormed in here to drag me home by now.’ I tried to laugh but it fell flat.

‘So you’re just avoiding them?’

‘I’m not, I protested. I really am prepping for the next mission.”

‘Evelyn...”

“Fine, I’m nervous,’ I admitted. “I don’t know what to say to them. My last memy is refusing that stupid ball and getting jumped by Acacia. I nearly died, and they don’t even know the truth. They were all there but never noticed.”

‘That Acacia,’ Nadia’s eyes narrowed. ‘One day she’ll pay for what she did.”

“That’s what you focus on?*

2/3

10:01 Mon, Jan 12

Chapter 166: I Know You’re Strong

74%

“What else? She tortured you and got away with it? Hell no.” She rolled her eyes That night when you didn’t show, several guys disappeared too. Acacia’s

crew was trashing things.”

“You never told me this!”

“You were unconscious, then busy training,” she shrugged. “They cared about you Everyone was just told to give you space.” She paused. I’m surprised Alpha King Nathan let you go undercover at that college after learning about your heritage.”

–

‘It wasn’t a real mission they just didn’t want to waste my abilities, I sighed. My age meant I couldn’t do standard training, so they let me attend school with special training on the side. That arrangement brought negative attention.

‘You mean the rumors?’

“Yeah. Plus showing up at royal events with Alistair. Nobody knew we were cousins, so the rumors went wild. Then that mission...” I took a deep breath. “The irony is, I knew the risks from the start. But I still went because it was my choice!

The Lightning Wolf Chronicles Novel

Chapter 5

Read The Lightning Wolf Chronicles Novel Chapter 5 -

Souls Bound By Promise – Timothy Nelson

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Chapter 167: When Did You Last Really Rest?

Evelyn’s POV

74%

I sank into the sofa, exhaustion seeping into my bones.

‘It’s like I’m stuck in some weird loop,” I said to Nadia. “Everyone wants to protect me, keep me safe, yet they still need me on the front lines. They hide stuff thinking I’ll break, but guess who still has to make the tough calls?’

I rubbed my temples. “I get that they care, but shouldn’t I have a say in my own life? The only thing I’ve ever actually asked for was to join Sentinel training.”

The moment those words left my mouth, I felt lighter somehow. Tired, but lighter

“Then let’s change things up,” Nadia jumped to her feet. “How about we hit the training grounds for a few laps? You need to burn off some energy, not sit here moping.”

‘Now? It’s pouring outside.’”

She cocked an eyebrow. “What, our badass Sentinel afraid of a little rain? Call Mark, Cyrus, and Sophia. You workaholic freaks need to move. Seriously, when was the last time you actually relaxed?”

She had a point. Since my rescue, I’d barely stopped to breathe between training learning, and missions.

Twenty minutes later, we were all running laps around the training center, then along the castle perimeter. The rain had stopped, leaving behind that clean, earthy smell that cleared my head. We chased each other around like normal teenagers without life-or-death responsibilities. Eventually, we collapsed under

a gazebo at the edge of the grounds.

“Heard your tracking thing is going well?” I asked Sophia and Cyrus between breaths.

“Pretty good,” Sophia nodded. “Found some of Freya’s pack already. Once things settle, she might get to meet them, maybe invite them here or join wherever

they’re staying.”

“The Rogue King tracking’s moving too,” Cyrus added. ‘Since we figured out they need witches and those specific herbs, we’ve been watching those sales. The witch council’s helping – they’re pissed about their people being forced to cast spells.’”

I took a water bottle from Sophia. “What about Aria’s mark thing? Could the same thing happen to me since mine’s temporary too?”

‘Diana thinks it was a special case,’ Nadia explained. “Aria’s bond with Alistair was crazy strong, plus her contract with Alpha King Nathan was equally powerful. The two forces

basically fought each other until the mark broke, Lucky he made it through without more damage.”

How are they doing?” I asked. ‘Haven’t seen them since that day.”

“Adjustment period, Nadia wiggled her eyebrows suggestively. “New mate bondseed... strengthening, especially with three people. But Luna Queen Selena says they’re doing fine. Aria’s starting to accept the whole Luna Queen thing.”

“They’re probably busy making babies. Why are you turning red? Nadia teased. totally normal.”

“I’m not blushing, I protested. I just don’t think we should be talking about the private stuff out loud.”

‘Of course we should! How else would anyone learn? Bet the guys talk about this stuff all the time. Right, Mark? Cyrus?’

‘Maybe not that detailed, but... yeah, basically,’ Mark admitted, making my eyes iden.

1/3

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Chapter 167: When Did You Last Really Rest?

< 74%

“Some girls never get what just having fun means. The clingy ones are the worst We usually help each other deal before it gets messy....

My jaw dropped, and he quickly added, “That was years ago. The full Sentinel ma makes all that impossible now.

“Seriously? Completely impossible? Nadia looked horrified. ‘I couldn’t handle that

“Honestly, it’s no big deal, Mark shrugged. The desire just isn’t there. If I still wanted to but couldn’t, I’d have washed out of training day one. You could all strip naked right now and I wouldn’t react.”

“TMI, I muttered.

“Don’t act all innocent. You’re probably the wildest one deep down. Quiet ones always are.” He winked, leaving me speechless.

Thankfully, the dinner bell rang, and I bolted toward the dining hall like my life depended on it.

Morning training had gotten more interesting since we'd been split into tactical teams. Hard to believe I'd been at camp exactly a year now, with new trainees arriving soon. Felt like another lifetime.

Our core team – Sophia, Freya, Mark, Cyrus, and me – mainly focused on finding Freya's pack members and tracking the Rogue King's movements. Both had

become personal for Freya and me.

We'd been on mission for a week without seeing Alistair, Rowan, or Aria. Today's bb: intercept enemy transport. The trucks looked ordinary, but Freya's

facial recognition had caught Brandon on camera.

Then we got intel that Brandon's convoy had added another truck heading toward a base we were watching.

After briefing, Alpha King Nathan approved our recon mission – no engagement, just gather intel on what those trucks were carrying.

“According to satellite, Cyrus pointed at our map, “they'll stop in this valley for about two hours to refuel and rest. Lots of trees, perfect cover for us.”

‘Guards?’ I asked.

“Four per truck, all werewolves but carrying guns and blades, Mark said. “Fixed patrol routes, rotating every 15 minutes.”

“Be careful, Sophia warned. “They seem to have something that detects unfamiliar werewolf scents.”

I nodded, pulling out small bottles. “Then we stay human and use these. Diana's concealer masks out scent for about 30 minutes, so we move fast.”

Four hours later, we were hidden in the forest overlooking the valley. The four trucks sat in a clearing with guards circling them

I studied their pattern. “There's a five-minute gap in the southeast corner during shift changes. Cyrus, enough time for the trackers?”

He considered. With cover, yeah.”

Tll go,' Sophia volunteered. I'm fastest

'Freya's monitoring from the comm vehicle. She'll warn us if anything changes, reminded them 'Remember, just recon. Plant the devices, then out. No

engagement."

"Got it, Captain," Cyrus mock-saluted.

'Ready to move. Shift change in eight minutes."

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Chapter 167: When Did You Last Really Rest?

I watched Sophia and Cyrus slip from cover, using bushes for concealment. They moved silently, not alerting any guards.

Freya, status? I asked through our link.

All clear, she replied.

74%

They planted trackers on the first two trucks smoothly, but as Cyrus approached the third, a guard turned toward him. No time to finish they ducked into

shadows.

Seeing the convoy preparing to leave, I ordered, Everyone pull back. Two trackers are enough.

Mission accomplished, we headed back to camp. In our dorm, Freya collapsed full clothed onto her bed and was instantly asleep. I gently covered her with a

blanket, turned off the light, and slipped out.

Outside, moonlight filtered through clouds onto the training ground, casting everything in silver. I changed into workout clothes and started jogging the

perimeter, letting the built-up tension slowly drain away.

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Chapter 5

Souls Bound By Promise – Timothy Nelson

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Chapter 168: The Gifts They Sent

Evelyn's POV

After my run, I dragged my tired feet toward the dorm. Rounding the corner, I spotted a familiar figure by the window and stopped dead.

“Well, look who’s back from the royal love nest, I called out, hurrying toward her

74%

Aria turned, her face lighting up. “Hey, Evie!”

We hugged tightly. She smelled different now the royal wing’s fragrance mixed with something new and powerful.

-

“Damn, you’ve changed,” I said, stepping back to look her over. “Like you aged five years overnight.”

“Magic of the mate bond, she shrugged with a grin. “That day my mark broke hurt like hell, but when I woke up... everything was different.”

A whistle echoed down the hall as Mark and Cyrus approached, wearing identical shit-eating grins.

“If it isn’t our future Luna Queen, Cyrus bowed dramatically. “Still remember usttle people, huh?”

“Bite me,” Aria rolled her eyes, though she couldn’t stop smiling. ‘Crown or not, can still kick your ass.”

“Crown? Alistair planning the wedding already?’ Mark’s eyes widened.

“God no, Aria swatted his arm. “That’s years away, after he officially becomes Alpha King.” She tucked her hair back. “But I am here on business.”

We grabbed a quiet corner in the dining hall, joined by Sophia and Freya.

“So Alpha King Nathan actually let you leave Alistair and Rowan?” I asked, biting into a sandwich. “Won’t they go crazy without you?”

“We’re past that can’t-be-apart stage, Aria winked, then blushed slightly. “Though those first few weeks after completing the bond were... wow.”

“Spill it, Sophia leaned forward eagerly. “What’s it like having two Alpha-level guys focused entirely on you? Do they fight over who gets your attention?”

‘Just asking because I have a mate too,” she added quickly.

Aria laughed. “Actually, I never thought three people could work so well together Alistair and Rowan have this understanding that’s kind of amazing. Sometimes the looks they exchange...”

“What?” Freya prompted when Aria trailed off.

“Just make me get why the Moon Goddess connected us,” Aria said softly. When they both look at me... that feeling of being completely wanted... it’s just different.

Mark groaned loudly. “Can we please talk about something else? I really don’t need these images in my head every time I see Alpha King Nathan and

Rowan.”

Chicken, Sophia teased.

‘Anyway,” Aria’s tone shifted to serious as she reached for her backpack. I actually came with something from Alpha King Nathan. For you, Evelyn.”

‘What is it?’ I asked.

1/3

10:01 Mon, Jan 12

GB

Chapter 168: The Gifts They Sent

2

“Yesterday, Polaris City had some visitors, she unzipped the bag slowly. “Elliot and those guys.”

74%B

My heart skipped. “They came looking for me?”

“They waited at the castle all day while you were on mission, Aria nodded. “Alpha King Nathan told them about your capture, but not all the details. They eventually had to leave.”

“Right, I forced a smile despite the disappointment. They’ve got their own responsibilities. They don’t need to worry about my stuff.”?

‘Don’t be like that, Aria squeezed my hand. “They were seriously worried. Before leaving, they each left something for you. Called it your survival kit.”

Warmth spread through my chest as I fought back sudden tears.

The first item was a pair of black tactical boots. I held them, feeling their lightweight quality.

“Try them on, Aria urged. “Elliot picked them. Custom-made, waterproof, and designed to reduce fatigue on long missions.”

I slipped them on. Perfect fit, like they were made for me.

Next came a tactical belt with various pouches.

‘From Milo, Aria explained. “Says it’s the best survival gear he could find. First aid on the left, tools on the right, hidden knife sheath in back.”

“That’s so him, I laughed, adjusting it around my waist. Always thinking some gadget will solve everything.”

Aria handed me a dark tactical jacket. The triplets chose this. Said since you’re always getting hurt, you should at least have some protection.

I unfolded it, noting the reinforced areas at the elbows and shoulders. Clearly designed for serious combat.

‘Last thing, Aria’s voice softened as she pulled out a leather thigh holster with a silver dagger. “Ori got this for you privately. Said you should always carry a

weapon, no matter where you are.”

I traced the wolf design on the dagger, emotion rising in my throat. Ori rarely showed his feelings, but this silently conveyed everything he couldn’t say.

“Now I’ve got something from each of them,” I said, fully geared up. “Full protection.”

‘You look like a total badass,’ Sophia said, impressed. “Remind me never to piss you off when you’re wearing all that.”

‘No kidding, Mark agreed. ‘Perfect timing too. Heard Commander Taric’s planning a major op to take out those rogue wolves for good.”

‘Yeah, Freya’s face darkened. “The trackers show their supply trucks making regular stops. Gives us a chance to hit them precisely.”

We shifted to discussing the upcoming mission, but my mind kept returning to the gifts. Despite being apart for over a year, they still knew exactly what I

needed.

‘Word is Alpha King Nathan’s organizing multiple squads to attack from different directions,” Cyrus lowered his voice. “This is big meant to end the threat

once and for all.’

‘About time,” I said, unconsciously touching the dagger. ‘We can’t keep living with this hanging over us.”

Aria watched me closely. ‘Be careful, okay? I know you want Brandon dealt with, but don’t let revenge cloud your judgment.”

I’ll be fine, I assured her. ‘With this gear and you guys backing me up, how cou I not be?”

2/3

10:01 Mon, Jan 12 GB

Chapter 168: The Gifts They Sent

Check your comms, Taric’s voice cut through the command room. “Mountain termin will mess with signals.”

74%

Tension filled the air as squad leaders gathered around the tactical table. The wall screen showed satellite images of the target area, with enemy positions

marked in red.

“Hunter Squad takes the eastern blockade,” Taric pointed. “Conrad will set up ambushes along the coast. Everyone clear?”

The leaders nodded. I exchanged glances with Sophia and Freya from the back row. We’d spent days analyzing the rogues movements, trying to predict

Brandon’s next step.

“Teams dismissed. Three hours to departure, Taric said. “Remember, they have witch protection. Stay alert.”

The room emptied except for us three. Taric waited for the door to close.

“You three have a special assignment, his eyes were sharp. “Running alongside the main attack.”

He changed the screen to show a forested mountain area northwest of Polaris City.

“Last night’s surveillance shows Brandon’s split from the main group, Taric said quietly. “He’s heading toward Polaris City with a small team.”

“He’s coming for me,” I said, anger rising.

“Likely,” Taric nodded. “Either for revenge or because of your bloodline. Either way, it’s an opportunity.”

“What’s the plan?” Freya stepped forward.

A trap, Taric met our eyes directly. “He expects to find Evelyn – and you three will give him exactly that. On our terms.”

The Lightning Wolf Chronicles Novel

Chapter 5

Read The Lightning Wolf Chronicles Novel Chapter 5 –

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169

Chapter 169: It’s a Trap!

Evelyn's POV

74%

A decoy operation, Taric said, his gaze unwavering. "Brandon expects to find you and you three will give him exactly what he wants – on our terms."

"So we're bait?" Sophia asked bluntly.

"Only if you volunteer," Taric emphasized. "This isn't an order. I know you all have personal scores to settle with Brandon, but I need clear heads out there."

The three of us exchanged glances. No words needed. Brandon had to pay, and being part of that justice felt right.

"We're in," I said.

Taric nodded and handed us each a small vial. "The goal is to capture Brandon alive and get information about the Rogue King."

Got it. Capture, don't kill," I said, pocketing the vial.

"Head northwest, establish your position here," he marked a spot on the map. "Check in hourly. If anything changes, I want to know immediately."

Five hours later, we were in position. The mountain air bit at my skin as we set up our observation post overlooking the misty pine forests. The distant canyon was barely visible through the haze.

"How close are we to Polaris territory?" Sophia asked, arranging her gear.

"About forty kilometers," I said, closing my eyes. "Close enough to feel the pack, but too far to reach them easily."

Freya set up the monitoring equipment. "Cyrus says these rogues use regular phones. We might pick up their signals."

Night fell. Sophia took first watch while Freya and I tried to rest in shifts. Sleep Wouldn't come. Every time I closed my eyes, I saw those dungeon walls, felt

those chains, remembered Brandon's twisted smile.

You should sleep, Sophia said through our link. Tomorrow could be rough.

I know, it's just... I sighed. Something feels off about all this.

I feel it too, Freya chimed in. Like we're being watched.

At dawn, we spread out in a two-kilometer radius, searching for Brandon's people

Movement, Freya's voice suddenly cut through my thoughts. Southeast, about five hundred meters. I hear voices and a fire.

Sophia and I converged on her position, staying low to avoid being spotted. Through a gap in the bushes, I saw three men around a small campfire, arguing.

"That bitch has gotta be around here somewhere, one complained. Brandon's cy making us circle this dump,"

'Shut up,' another snapped. You questioning the Alpha now?"

'I'm just saying, if this Evelyn chick is so damn important, why send just the three of us? We'd be screwed if we ran into actual Sentinels."

The third pulled out a phone. "Why don't you call Brandon yourself with your briant ideas?"

1/3

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Chapter 169: It's a Trap!

Notice they're using phones, not mind links? Sophia observed.

They probably don't have a real pack bond, I replied. That gives us an edge.

We quickly formed a plan: Sophia would take the right, Freya the left, and I'd approach from the front.

Watch first, I reminded them. Let's see if they drop any useful info.

The men kept complaining, oblivious to our presence. I strained to hear anything about Brandon's location or the Rogue King.

"Time's up," one suddenly stood, pulling out a small device. "Gotta activate the signal."

A chill ran down my spine.

74%

Fall back! I warned. It's a trap!

Almost instantly, growls erupted from all directions. A powerful impact wave hit the area. I barely dodged the first attacker, but another immediately lunged

for my legs.

In the chaos, I lost track of Sophia and Freya. I focused on the immediate threat dodging sideways, grabbing my attacker's arm and using his momentum to drive my knee into his chest. He staggered back but recovered quickly.

I drew Ori's silver dagger, feeling its reassuring weight. This wasn't just a weapon it connected me to home, to family.

A second enemy tried sneaking behind me. I kicked backward hard, hitting his knee. He fell with a pained yell but grabbed my ankle, pulling me down. I rolled away from the first attacker's lunge, slashing at the hand gripping my ankle.

"Bitch!" he spat, releasing me. "Brandon said bring you back alive, but he didn't say we couldn't rough you up first!"

I jumped to my feet, feeling my wolf stirring. The urge to shift was strong, but I needed to stay human to use my weapons effectively.

The first attacker charged again. I sidestepped and buried my dagger in his thigh. He howled in pain, his steps faltering. I pressed my advantage – elbow to his temple, kick to his stomach. He went flying.

I turned to face the second attacker, who'd drawn a hunting knife.

"Finally caught you," he leered. "Brandon wants you alive, but we can still have some fun first."

"Tell Brandon if he wants me, he should come himself," I taunted.

He lunged. I dodged, grabbed his wrist and twisted until I heard bone crack. As I stumbled, I drove my knee into his chin, then followed with a spinning

kick that dropped him.

Sophia's cry for help cut through the air. I looked over to see her pinned against tree, a knife at her throat. Nearby, Freya faced two attackers, with one already down.

I crept behind the man holding Sophia and pressed my dagger against his neck. here's Brandon? Why's he hiding?

"You're nothing special, he snarled. "When the Alpha's done with you, you'll be ash like the others."

He swung back suddenly. My dagger sliced his throat. Still fighting, he grabbed for me. I'll strip you bare and hang you up for everyone!

Something snapped inside me. Every bit of rage and humiliation from that dungen erupted at once, I stabbed him repeatedly until he stopped moving.

2/3

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B

Chapter 169: It's a Trap!

"Evelyn, stop! Sophia's voice cut through. "Freya needs help!"

I blinked back to reality. Freya was still fighting, her movements slowing from exhaustion.

Enemy squad confirmed, seven total, Brandon not present. Four down, pursuing hostes! I reported to headquarters.

Seeing us approach, the two enemies shifted to wolf form and bolted into the forest.

74%

"After them!" I shifted instantly, my silver-blue fur gleaming in the moonlight. Sophia and Freya followed as we raced through the trees.

Crossing a ridge, a familiar scent hit me – we were approaching Polaris territory. Fighting sounds reached us from ahead. We pushed faster and found the

two rogues battling pack guards.

Just as I moved to join the fight, a pitch-black figure shot from the forest – a massive wolf whose fur seemed to absorb all light, only its deep green eyes

with golden flecks visible in the darkness.

Orion.

He moved like lightning, pinning one rogue to the ground. His fangs tore the enemy's throat in one violent motion. Blood gushed as the rogue went limp.

Orion immediately turned toward the second enemy, who was tangled with a pack warrior.

Orion! Keep one alive! I called.

He jerked his head toward us. When he recognized my silver-blue form, the killing intent in his eyes softened slightly. Then he lunged at the second rogue,

this time only biting the enemy's hind leg, dragging him down.

The rogue let out a piercing howl, his injuries leaving him whimpering on the ground, immobilized but alive.

The Lightning Wolf Chronicles Novel

Chapter 5

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Souls Bound By Promise – Timothy Nelson

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Chapter 170: I've Finally Come Home

Evelyn's POV

☾ 74%L

Moonlight spilled across the forest as my wolf cautiously advanced. A low, threatening growl stopped me in my tracks. Orion stood there, then he shifted, moonlight gleaming on his skin.

I shifted too, clothes intact. Orion's eyes flashed with confusion as he took me in. Sophia and Freya shifted behind me, forming a protective stance.

'Orion,' I said softly.

He straightened, expression hardening. "So, Sentinel Evelyn finally remembered her way home?"

I nodded, taking a small step forward.

"That's it? No explanation? Nothing to say?" The anger in his voice was unmistakable.

“We were tracking rogues to this area,” I gestured behind me. “Took down four of them and followed the last two here. We need to question the survivor about their plans.”

“Just official business then?” he said, jaw tight.

Before I could answer, a golden-brown blur tackled me, nearly knocking me over. warm tongue frantically licked my face, making me laugh.

“Milo! Stop! I’m covered in dirt!”?

He gave me one last slobbery lick before jumping back and shifting, completely bothered by his nakedness as he pulled me up.

“God, I missed you, Tiny! You’re actually back!” He spun me around, pure joy radiating from him.

“Evelyn, behind you!” Sophia warned.

Elliot emerged from the bushes and pulled me into a bone-crushing hug.

“Thank God you’re back,” he murmured into my hair, voice thick with emotion.

“Missed you too,” I whispered, savoring the familiar warmth I’d gone without for long.

After letting go, I saw Magnus and Lucian had approached. I hugged Magnus brily, then turned to Lucian.

When the reunions ended, I grabbed a collar from my pocket and approached the captive on the ground.

“This has sensors embedded in it,” I explained as I fastened it, my voice turning offessional. “Try to shift or run, and it release enough wolfsbane to make you wish you were dead.”

I stood and faced the guys, deliberately avoiding Orion’s gaze. “I need to secure for questioning. Can we use your holding cells?”

‘Of course, Magnus nodded. “How long are you staying?”

‘Not sure,” I sighed. “Finding rogues this close to your territory is concerning. Ied to contact Alpha King Nathan and Commander Taric about defense strategies.”

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Chapter 170: I've Finally Come Home

"Jack, Magnus called to a warrior, 'take the prisoner to holding. Then to me: "You look exhausted. Head to the main house first. Luna Isabella already knows you're back, and if you don't see her right away..."

I suddenly remembered my teammates and turned. "This is Freya and Sophia, my Sentinel teammates. Then to the girls: "These are Polaris Pack's future leaders Magnus, Lucian, and Orion will serve as Alphas together; Elliot's my brother, the future Beta; and Milo's the future Delta."

-

"Let's go, Elliot wrapped an arm around my shoulders. "You've got a lot of explaining to do, sis."

As we walked the familiar path, Elliot kept his arm around me like he thought I might vanish. Milo chatted non-stop about everything I'd missed, trying to cut through the tension. The triplets led silently, backs straight.

'Hey, did you like our gifts?' Milo asked, eyes bright with anticipation.

"They saved my ass more than once,' I smiled. 'Especially in tight spots."

"That dagger really came through," I glanced at Orion's back. "Helped me take down an enemy and saved Sophia too."

Orion's shoulders tensed, but he didn't turn, just muttered, 'Good."

"See? My gear was the most useful," he whispered to Milo, pride evident.

'Guess I owe you lunch, Milo nudged him before walking ahead toward the SUV.

Standing by the vehicle, memories flooded back. How many times had we all piled in for adventures? It felt like another lifetime.

"We stepped up patrols after hearing about rogue activity, Magnus said, opening the door. "Need to grab any equipment?"

"Our gear's still at the outpost, Sophia answered, sensing my hesitation. "But we've got essentials with us."

“How do you keep your clothes when you shift?” Elliot asked, studying me.

“Long story,” I said, avoiding his eyes. “We should grab our stuff from the outpost first. If there are more rogues around, we need to know.”

‘Yeah, and we’re all beat,” Freya climbed into the back while Milo and Orion secured the prisoner in the trunk.

I approached the passenger seat – my old spot – but paused.

Is this seat... still open?” I asked uncertainly, looking at Lucian.

“Why wouldn’t it be?” He frowned.

‘Been gone a while. Don’t want to take someone else’s spot,” I fidgeted with my gers, annoyed at my sudden insecurity.

“This will always be your seat, Little Lightning, Lucian said quietly. “No one cou replace you.”

I felt myself relax and was about to sit when Sophia piped up: ‘Little Lightning?nother nickname? Alpha King Nathan and Commander Taric call her

‘Little Warrior’ too.”

‘Started as a joke,” I explained, ‘stuck around.”

‘Maybe I need a nickname, Sophia laughed.

“Later. Let’s check in first, I changed the subject, connecting with base through or mental link.

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Chapter 170: I’ve Finally Come Home

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Cyrus, need observation point coordinates. We’ve joined Polaris Pack, captured one enemy for questioning. Five hostiles down, awaiting instructions from Command.

The coordinates came through immediately.

Is he monitoring you?” Orion frowned.

“Full tracking, detailed notes, the works, I shrugged.

‘Sentinels really have that tech? Orion’s tone was skeptical.

“So cool! We should get something like that, Milo said excitedly.

“Not all teams do this,” Sophia explained. “But when your leader has special talents and gets into trouble...”

“You follow me into danger every time, I reminded her. ‘I’m just using our tech advantages. Cyrus is definitely watching since we’re the only combat team active.”

“Being watched 24/7 sounds creepy,” Orion said coldly.

“Jealous?” I shot back.

“Having some random guy watching your every move? Yeah, super appealing,” his voice dripped with sarcasm.

“When you put it that way, it does sound weird,” I admitted.

We reached the observation point, ending the awkward conversation. Sophia headed for our tactical vehicle.

“Keys?” she held out her hand. “I’ll drive behind you.”

“Maybe we should stick together,” I glanced at Freya in the back seat. “Freya can Handle our prisoner.”

‘She seems pretty interested in your brother,” Sophia whispered. “Even with the Sentinel mark, the attraction’s obvious.”

I laughed, watching Elliot and Freya interact it reminded me of Milo and Nadia early days.

Sophia started to get out, and I followed, but Lucian gently pulled me back.

“Stay,” he said quietly. ‘Orion will make sure Sophia’s safe. We need to... talk.”

‘But..

“Please, his eyes held a sincerity I couldn’t refuse. “There’s a lot we need to clear.”